

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 05269 082317Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

L-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /037 W  
-----124447 090108Z /20

P 082230Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2602  
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5269

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR PN VE  
SUBJECT: PRES PEREZ AGAIN EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER  
INTERNAL PANAMANIAN SITUATION

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON  
ANOTHER SUJECT, PRESIDENT PEREZ AGAIN EXPRESSED  
CONCERN OVER THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN PANAMA WHICH  
HE SAID MIGHT WELL DETERIORATE AND CREATE A REAL CRISIS  
FOR THE US AND THE TREATIES. PEREZ REFERRED TO HIS  
RECENT CONTACTS WITH THE LIBERAL PARTY AND WITH SAMUDIO,  
AND SAID THAT THE LIBERALS WERE SPLIT WITH NO COHESIVE  
STRATEGY. SAMUDIO HAD TOLD HIM THAT SOME OF THIS PARTY  
WANTED TO JOIN A COALITION AROUND ARNULFO ARRIBAS.  
THERE APPEARED TO BE A GROWING BELIEF THAT ALL THE  
OPPOSITION SHOULD JOIN ARRIBAS AND CONFRONT TORRIJOS.

2. PEREZ SAID HE THOUGHT THIS TREND WAS DANGEROUS.  
THE LAST THING TORRIJOS WILL DO IS TO PERMIT ARRIBAS  
TO TAKE THE PRESIDENCY; NOR WOULD THE NATIONAL GUARD.  
PEREZ THOUGHT THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY SHOULD CONSITITUE  
AN INDEPENDENT AND PERESTIGIOUS OPPOSITION DISTINCT  
FROM ARRIBAS AND THAT RORRIJOS SHOULD BOTH RESPECT THAT  
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AND PERMIT GREATER DEMOCRATIZATION AND EXPRESSION TO  
THE OPPOSITION ORMCES. THAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE ONLY  
WAY TO HEAD OFF AN ARRIBAS CHALLENGE. THE LACK OF  
REASONABLE STRATEGY BY THE LIBERALS WASMATCHED ONLY  
BY THE SHORTSIGHTED VIEWS OF ADVISORS AROUND TORRIJOS  
WHO WANTED TO CURTAIL RATHER THAN PROMOTE DEMOCRATICIZATION.

3. COMMENT: PEREZ DOES, OF COURSE, GET INTENSE ABOUT THINGS AND OFTEN OVERREACTS. IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE IS WORRIED NOW, AND RATHER INTENSELY SO.

4. PEREZ SAID HE WAS VERY WORRIED THAT THE SITUATION WILL POLARIZE, THAT TROUBLE MAY RESULT, AND THAT THIS WOULD DAMAGE THE WHOLE US POLICY AS MANIFESTED IN THE TREATY NEGOTIATION, WITH THE TREATY OPPONENTS IN THE US FEELING "VINDICATED."

VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CARACA05269  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 2442856  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRES PEREZ AGAIN EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER INTERNAL PANAMANIAN SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PN, VE, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/bc36408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014